

## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 9, 2020

Ashland, Oregon

### **World Premiere of New Concert Opera Based on the Real-life Stories of Southern Oregon Latino Immigrants Postponed to March 21, 2021**

Anima Mundi Productions, a Rogue Valley-based nonprofit organization dedicated to “healing the soul of the world through the arts,” has announced the postponement of the third concert of its *Heart of Humanity* series—entitled *Dreams Have No Borders*. Previously scheduled for April of 2020, this world-premiere event will now take place on **Sunday, March 21 of 2021**. What follows is the original press release prepared before the outbreak of COVID19:

The concert features **Grammy-winning Soprano Estelí Gomez**, Houston Grand Opera stars Cecilia Duarte and Rafael Moras, and the Delgani String Quartet, called “**the state’s finest chamber ensemble**” by Oregon ArtsWatch.

Together, this illustrious cast of performers will present the **world premiere** of *Dreams Have No Borders* by Rogue Valley-based composer **Ethan Gans-Morse** and poet **Tiziana DellaRovere**.

#### **A DIFFERENT KIND OF OPERA BASED ON ROGUE VALLEY RESIDENTS**

For many people, the word “opera” conjures up images of powdered wigs, foreign languages, and arcane stories of centuries past and far-away lands. *Dreams Have No Borders*, by contrast, is based on the real-life stories the creators heard during a year spent interviewing Latino immigrants and collaborating with Latino-advocacy nonprofits and community leaders in the Rogue Valley. While the work they ultimately produced is a fictional story created by compositing those interviews, everything that happens to the characters in the opera happened in real life to the Rogue Valley residents they interviewed.

#### **WHAT IS “CONCERT OPERA”? IS IT HARD TO FOLLOW THE STORY?**

Like all of the concerts in the *Heart of Humanity* series, *Dreams Have No Borders* will be performed in the SOU Music Recital Hall at 450 S Mountain Ave in Ashland. That means it will be presented like a concert, with minimal staging. The piece is written in English (with occasional lines in Spanish which are explained in context) and the production features “supertitles,” meaning that the words will be projected above the stage.

Additionally, Anima Mundi Productions is proud to partner with the Ashland-based Latinx art collective, ALAS, to exhibit visual artwork by Latinx artists of international and local renown.

#### **WHO ARE THE CREATORS?**

*Dreams Have No Borders* is the creation of Anima Mundi Productions’ co-founders and resident artists Ethan Gans-Morse (composer) and Tiziana DellaRovere (poet). Local audiences attended

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their 2018 collaboration with the Rogue Valley Symphony, *How Can You Own The Sky?* which told the story of our region's Native American legacy.

*Dreams Have No Borders* is their third operatic collaboration. Their 2014 opera, *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* was hailed by The Oregonian as "A huge achievement... generous, carefully crafted and supremely compassionate. In a review of their second opera, *Tango of the White Gardenia*, Oregon ArtsWatch wrote "Its messages are loud and clear and humane, and the art is fine enough to carry them... Not only can *Tango of the White Gardenia* turn people onto the sometimes-alienating ancient art form of opera, it also suggests that we can become better people."

### **WHO ARE THE PERFORMERS?**

Grammy-Award winning soprano Estelí Gomez has been praised for her "clear, bright voice" by The New York Times. Mezzo-soprano Cecilia Duarte has similarly been praised by The New York Times for her "robust" and "creamy" voice. Her work on the recent classical album *Durufié: Complete Choral Works* has been nominated for a 2020 Grammy Award. Tenor Rafael Moras is a rising star in the opera world. A Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Finalist, he has recently given breakout lead performances with Houston Grand Opera and Utah Opera. **This production also features an appearance by the Teocalli Aztec Dancers.**

### **THE HEART OF HUMANITY CONCERT SERIES**

All *Heart of Humanity* concerts take place at the Oregon Center for the Arts Music Recital Hall on Mountain Ave. on the campus of Southern Oregon University.

The Heart of Humanity concert series is distinguished for its strong emphasis on addressing an urgent social theme at each concert, often through the creation and premiere of new concert works by composers who are directly involved in the concert. The stated mission of the series is *to give voice to marginalized people with compassion and depth, turning the concert hall into a space for renewed hope, communal healing, and mutual understanding.*

In October, Anima Mundi Productions brought composer, pianist, and peace activist Malek Jandali to the Rogue Valley to launch "Pianos for Peace Oregon," which involved the placement of artistically painted pianos in downtown Ashland and a week of "Peace through Music" events that culminated in a riveting concert by the Malek Jandali Trio that touched audiences deeply.

In January, Anima Mundi Productions brought world-renowned baritone Christòpheren Nomura for a peace-themed recital called *With Malice Toward None, With Charity for All* which received tremendous audience acclaim.

**Tickets are on sale at [www.HumanityTickets.com](http://www.HumanityTickets.com) or by calling 541-833-3066.**

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For further inquiries, please contact executive director Ethan Gans-Morse: 541-778-1211.